GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5889
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
C.T.B.T.
ABDUL HAMID

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `RSS Don`t sign CTBT` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 27, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) & (c) Government`s position on the CTBT was laid down by the Prime Minister in Parliament in December 1998. The priority of our meeting the country`s national security concerns having been addressed, the government believes that we now need to convey reassurance to the international community and, in this regard, desire to develop a national consensus. The Government is encouraged by the constructive response to its efforts to build a consensus on the issue of the CTBT and intends to pursue this exercise.